Project Frankenstein

by Dragonfly Mike

Mix and Matching the different parts of each Kaloud Lotus 1+3

Mixing and Matching Kaloud Lotus 1+3 Parts

****Disclaimer: If you choose to attempt or experiment with mixing and matching parts, you do so at your own risk, as taking apart a Kaloud Lotus will void its warranty.****

Inspired by the work of @Hookah.Science, which has begun to reveal how different colored HMDS (Heat Management Devices) affect heat transfer to bowls, I became curious about the results of swapping the plates and chassis of the Lotus 1+3. Over the past two months, I've experimented with mixing and matching the different variants of the Lotus 1+3. I was not asked to undertake this project by any company or entity.

Unlike other testers, I don't have hard data or specialized machinery. My findings are based solely on my personal observations and opinions. This report is not factual, but rather a collection of personal experiences. I spent a week with each variant, using numerous types of bowls and packing methods. While I used a variety of different coals, I stuck with the same brand: 320 Coals. My standard sessions consisted of four 25mm cubes. The ambient temperature in my house remained between 68–72 degrees Fahrenheit, though humidity and outside temperature varied greatly.

I used three hookahs for these tests: the Retrofit Amalgam, Mattpear Mini S, and a Kaloud Calix. I typically didn't use the Ayara Carbon Filter with the Calix, but I did for a few sessions here and there. I used a silicone hose and various handles.

I smoked many different brands of tobacco, including blonde leaf, but my main focus was dark leaf. Some of the brands I used were Blackburn, Overdose, Banger, Bonche, Satyr, Musthave, and Trofimoff's.

It's important to remember that mood and personal bias can influence how any given session is experienced. Because of this, I must reiterate that this report is a personal observation and should not be construed as fact.

Gold Chassis with Silver Plate:

This was the first variant I tried. I found this one did not smoke as well as my standard gold Lotus 1+3. Heat management required diligence and focus. I did not notice a reliable temp range. It felt as if the heat would spike and fall more rapidly. I had to keep taking off and putting on my 4th coal.

Silver Chassis With Gold plate:

This was the second variant I tried. I found this one to be a good smoke. Temps seemed steady and reliable. There was some heat management required but not enough to be considered intrusive to the session. I would use this setup again and may prefer this over pure silver or gold Lotus 1+3.

Silver Chassis with Black Plate:

This was the third variant I tried. The sessions would be a tad shorter than my normal gold Lotus 1+3. But it still smoked just fine. Heat management didn't feel much different until the end of the session, which felt as if it stopped just short of how long I would like sessions to last.

Black Chassis with Silver Plate:

This setup was quite similar to its silver chassis counterpart, though it required slightly more effort in heat management. Sessions didn’t vary much in length or quality and felt consistent with a typical Lotus 1+3.

Gold chassis with Black Plate:

This one reminded me of the black plate with silver chassis. Sessions felt shorter. Heat management wasn't noticeable. Sessions were good but consistently not as good as a standard Lotus 1+3.

Black Chassis with Gold Plate:

This was the last variant I tried. This was a put "coals and forget it." I didn't have to take coals off, I didn't have to manage my heat. Set it, and forget it. Out of all the variants I tried, this one stuck out the most. Sessions were as long as I expected them to be in comparison to my normal smokes. I would ash the coals as I do for all my sessions, but besides that, it smoked great. I believe this one smoked better than my standard Gold Lotus 1+3. This variant will remain together and be used consistently. There was a noticable difference near the end of the session. It would seem to just end for me. With that said, The bowls were still cooked all the way through.

A Bit of a Summary:

Some of these variants produced interesting and unique experiences for me. I was a bit surprised about liking the last variant I have pictured. As shown by @Hookah.Science, black HMDS tend to be cooler than non-colored HMDS. As a result of how I smoke, that means sessions do not last as long as I would like. But the black chassis with the gold plate really did perform well. What surprised me was that the black and silver variants didn't produce anything too notable. After each week, I did somewhat of a shoulder shrug. It was slightly different but nothing that was worth mentioning.

The gold and silver variants were interesting. I did like the silver chassis with the gold plate but I am unsure if I liked this more than a standard Gold Lotus 1+3. I would like to revisit that variant more and do a side-by-side test of gold vs. silver chassis and gold plate.

Overall, I enjoyed this experiment. The experiences were a tad surprising. I tried my best to go into each variant with an open mind but know I had some bias based on what I think I know about HMDS and color variances.